



NOAA FISHERIES Webinar Series

Sponsored by the
Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training (QUEST) Program

Webinar Details:

Date: Wednesday May 25

Time: 1–2 pm EST (10–11 am PDT)

Space is limited. Reserve your seat at: <https://goo.gl/3DZe46>

Topic: Efforts to Develop a South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Citizen Science Program

Presenters: John Carmichael, Julia Byrd, and Amber Von Harten, *South Atlantic FMC*



Abstract: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council manages federal fisheries over a broad geographic range along the eastern U.S. from the Florida Keys to North Carolina. Management encompasses a wide range of habitats and species managed through seven fishery management plans, along with plans addressing habitat, sargassum, and corals. The South Atlantic Council has grappled for years with the challenge of providing timely and robust science to support decision making despite limited resources and a complex and diverse ecosystem. Recognizing the desire of fishermen to get involved and the data needs for the region, the South Atlantic Council is exploring development of a comprehensive fishery citizen science program. Citizen science can engage multiple stakeholders, including fishermen, scientists, and managers, in producing large-scale datasets to enhance the knowledge base for management to decrease scientific and management uncertainty. The presentation will highlight current data challenges in the South Atlantic region; examples of how researchers, resource managers, and fishermen can partner to enhance existing data collection, research, and monitoring efforts; and program recommendations developed by the recent Council-hosted Citizen Science Program Design workshop.

Biographies: **John Carmichael** is the Deputy Executive Director for Science and Statistics at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He has worked at the Council since 2003, originally as the Coordinator and then Program Manager for the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review process. Previous positions include serving as a stock assessment scientist with the NC Division of Marine Fisheries working with striped bass, red drum and river herring; an FMP coordinator with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; and a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. **Julia Byrd** has served as a SEDAR Coordinator for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council since 2012. She coordinates stock assessments, primarily in the South Atlantic region, as well as other procedural workshops on special topics of concern to the SEDAR stock assessment process. Previously, she served for eight years as a biologist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, where she worked on a variety of fishery management issues, including coordinating the Office of Fisheries Management's recreational fishery dependent data collection and biological sampling efforts. **Amber Von Harten** has served as the Fishery Outreach Specialist for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, which manages federal fisheries from North Carolina to Key West, Florida, since 2012. She develops and delivers outreach programs aimed at connecting fisheries science, research, and policy to encourage stakeholder involvement in the federal fisheries management process. Previously, she served as the Fisheries Specialist for the SC Sea Grant Consortium for 9 years working directly with commercial fishermen and other stakeholders on cooperative research, fisheries management, and seafood business and marketing projects.

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